

time for action. It's time to stop saying "no" and get on with solving a major fundamental problem here in America.

A REPUBLIC OR A MONARCHY?

(Mr. LATTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, 233 years ago this May, a group of American patriots met in Philadelphia to create a Constitution which has been the guiding light to freedom-loving people around the world. Now, as we gather here, the majority is planning a procedural gimmick to get around having to vote for a health care bill that Americans don't want or can't afford. Let's not circumvent the Constitution. Outside Independence Hall when the Constitutional Convention concluded in September of 1787, a Mrs. Powell of Philadelphia is reported to have asked Benjamin Franklin, "Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" With no hesitation whatsoever, Franklin responded, "A Republic, if you can keep it." Let's keep this Constitution.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. HIRONO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HIRONO. Your health or your home? Americans should not have to make this choice, but all too often they have to because of the high cost of health care. Lesley Czechowicz of Kihei, Maui, called my office yesterday to tell me about her 20-year-old niece. Last year, her niece collapsed and fell into a seizure. Medics rushed her to the hospital; and, ultimately, she was diagnosed with epilepsy.

Her niece had a part-time retail job that did not offer health insurance to their employees. Because of the emergency care and subsequent follow-up visits to the doctor, her niece was recently forced to sell her house so that she could pay her medical bills. Lesley called me because she wanted to make sure I would support health care reform. She told me that while it's too late for her niece, it's not too late for our country. I couldn't agree more.

Private health insurance companies run a business. Their goal is to make money for their shareholders. They pay their CEOs millions of dollars a year while raising health care costs for the rest of us. Whose side are you on?

SLAUGHTER HOUSE RULE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, we're having the vote of the century on the Senate health care bill, but there's a sneaky snake oil gimmick afoot to pass the bill without voting on it.

First, we're passing bills without reading them, and now they want us to pass bills without actually voting on the bill. The trick is to deem the Senate bill passed without ever having a straight up-or-down vote. And it's a trick.

When we vote on the rules for debate, they want to make that count as the vote on the health care bill instead of actually voting on the health care bill. Let's have an up-or-down vote on this bill and not hide behind some procedural mumbo jumbo. The Constitution says: "But in all such Cases the Votes of both Houses shall be determined by Yeas and Nays." It doesn't say anything about "deeming" in the Constitution.

To obtain votes for government-run health care, backroom secret deals are being made in the caverns of this building, and it's shameful. This is passing the government health care bill by any sneaking means necessary, including slaughtering the House rules.

And that's just the way it is.

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) was indeed correct. It's going to be a historic vote of 100 years that started with Teddy Roosevelt, who talked about the need for health care in this country. And that debate was continued by Richard Nixon, and it was also advocated by Howard Baker. It's been bipartisan for 100 years that we need health care reform in this country. And it's never been more critical than now, when it's eating up our Federal budget, our individuals' budgets, and hurting us economically.

But beyond that, we need a compassionate and responsible government, and we have a President who is compassionate, responsible, and trying, like Nelson Mandela, to reach out to his former enemies and have bipartisanship. And he's had none of it, but he continues to try. And we need to support this President, support our country, preserve our economy, and provide health care like every other industrialized nation in this world does, and make America among the leaders and not the followers.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, the Democrat claims that the Obama health care bill will reduce the debt and help balance the budget, but reviewing those calculations shows that they're going to collect higher taxes for 10 years and provide health care for only 6 years. Imagine that.

Isn't that a little misleading? Four years of health care taxes with no health care.

Imagine if you wanted to buy a house and you had to make 4 years of payments before you could move in, and then finally when you moved in, you found out you had rationed use of the property. You couldn't choose where to park your car, like in the garage. You had to drive blocks away down to a public parking lot and then wait in line for a stall.

Ten years of taxes, 6 years of benefits, followed by rationed care. You wouldn't buy a house under those terms, and Congress shouldn't pass a health care bill under those terms either.

We can do better. We can have health care reform that lowers costs by addressing preexisting conditions, by lowering defensive medicine costs, by having commonsense tort reform.

The Republican alternative lowers the price of health care by 10 percent, according to the Congressional Budget Office. That's what this Congress ought to pass.

I deem back the balance of my time.

WE MUST HAVE REFORM

(Mr. MOORE of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I want to read to you an email I just received from one of my staffers back in Overland Park, Kansas, my Congressional office there. It came at 11:55 a.m.:

"When I leave this job and have to seek new insurance, I will be largely uninsurable due to my preexisting condition, breast cancer, whether I show any remaining signs of the disease at that time or not.

"I was so fortunate last year to have this job and Federal employee insurance. The cancer treatment I received cost over \$50,000. My husband and I would have lost every penny we had and then some if we had not had this quality coverage.

"Without a bill like this one, I will likely not have access to that kind of coverage ever again due to my cancer diagnosis at the age of 24. Without quality coverage, and if, God forbid, I should ever have to go through this again, it would undoubtedly break us that time around.

"We must have reform.

"Thank you, Dennis."

This, folks, is what it's all about, people like this around the country. We've got to do something and reform our health insurance system, our health care system.

LET'S HAVE AN UP-OR-DOWN VOTE

(Mr. POSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I think that there's unanimous will on both